

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PARIS 02404 01 OF 02 252255Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-02 ISO-00 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08
EA-12 FRB-01 INR-07 IO-14 NEA-10 NSAE-00 USIA-15
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UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 PARIS 02404

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PASS AGRICULTURE FOR HATHAWAY AND HUGHES

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: OECD EAGR
SUBJECT: DRAFT COMMUNIQUE FOR AGR MINISTERIAL

REF: PARIS 01232

SUMMARY. SECRETARIAT DISTRIBUTED DRAFT PRESS COMMUNIQUE FOR AGR MINISTERIAL JAN. 25 (DAA/1515). CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THREE SUBTOPICS ON AGENDA CORRESPOND TO THOSE INDICATED IN REFTEL. RESUME OF SUBSTANTIVE CONTENT OF DAA/1515 IS GIVEN IN THIS MESSAGE. FULL TEXT SENT TO FAS (WITCHER).
END SUMMARY.

I. INTERNATIONAL AGRICULTURAL MARKETS.

1. REF. IS MADE TO SUBSTANTIAL FLUCTUATIONS IN RECENT YEARS, IN PARTICULAR TO EXCESSIVE DECLINE IN STOCKS OF CEREALS AND ANIMAL FEEDS, WHICH WERE MAJOR CAUSE OF DISTURBANCE IN WORLD ECONOMY IN REGARD TO
UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 02 PARIS 02404 01 OF 02 252255Z

FOOD SECURITY AND PRICES. TO AVOID FUTURE RECURRENCE OF SUCH DISTURBANCES AND TO REDUCE PERSISTENT IMBALANCES IN LIVESTOCK PRODUCTS, MINISTERS SUGGEST FOLLOWING CORRECTIVE MEASURES (IN PARAS. 2-4) AT NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL LEVELS, BY MEMBER AND NON-MEMBER COUNTRIES.

2. BECAUSE FOR FIRST TIME SINCE 1973 CEREAL PRODUCTION IN MEMBER COUNTRIES MORE THAN SUFFICIENT TO COVER MARKET SUPPLIES AND FOOD AID OBLIGATIONS, THERE IS NEED TO PROCEED RAPIDLY AND IN CONCERT TO MAINTAIN ADEQUATE STOCKS FOR FOOD SECURITY AND TO PREVENT PRESENT HIGH LEVEL OF SUPPLY FROM LEADING TO EXCESSIVE CUTBACK IN PRODUCTION IN NEXT FEW YEARS.

3. NEED TO IMPROVE MARKET OBSERVATION AND ACHIEVE BETTER JOINT UTILIZATION OF INFORMATION WITH PARTICIPATION OF ALL COUNTRIES CONCERNED. OECD SHOULD INTENSIFY ITS WORK ON MARKET SURVEILLANCE, EMPHASIZING INTERRELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN MARKETS FOR CEREALS, ANIMAL FEEDS AND LIVESTOCK PRODUCTS, TAKING ACCOUNT OF RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN OECD AND OTHER COUNTRIES. MULTILATERAL CONSULTATIONS SHOULD TAKE PLACE AMONG INTERESTED COUNTRIES TO FIND TOGETHER MEANS TO ALLEVIATE FORESEEABLE MARKET DIFFICULTIES.

4. ALSO STRESSED IS ROLE OECD MIGHT PLAY IN SEARCH FOR MORE LASTING IMPROVEMENT IN FUNCTIONING OF INTERNATIONAL MARKETS WHICH MIGHT INVOLVE MORE INTENSE CONSULTATIONS AMONG MAIN PRODUCING AND CONSUMING COUNTRIES, AND THEIR PARTICIPATION IN NECESSARY ADJUSTMENTS IN CASE OF SERIOUS IMBALANCES.

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PAGE 03 PARIS 02404 01 OF 02 252255Z

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PAGE 01 PARIS 02404 02 OF 02 252254Z
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4808
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UNCLAS SECTION 02 OF 02 PARIS 02404

USOECD

5. MINISTERS ALSO REAFFIRMED THEIR DETERMINATION TO CARRY THROUGH VARIOUS CURRENT NEGOTIATIONS CONCERNING TEMPERATE-ZONE PRODUCTS IN SHORTEST POSSIBLE TIME, TO ACHIEVE ORDERLY EXPANSION OF TRADE AND MARKET STABILIZATION FOR THESE PRODUCTS.

II. FOOD POLICY.

6. IN REFERENCE TO CHANGING LINKS BETWEEN AGR PRODUCTION, PROCESSING, MARKETING AND CONSUMPTION OF FOOD, THESE TRENDS CAN RESULT IN BETTER UTILIZATION OF RESOURCES AND MORE REGULAR SUPPLY BUT ALSO PROBLEMS IN DISEQUILIBRIA IN BARGAINING POWER AMONG VARIOUS ECONOMIC GROUPS IN FOOD SYSTEM AND THEIR CONSEQUENT ADJUSTMENT PROBLEMS. IT IS IN INTEREST OF ALL PARTICIPANTS IN FOOD SYSTEM TO INCREASE EFFICIENCY AND INTEGRATE VARIOUS GOVT OBJECTIVES AND MEASURES INTO OVERALL POLICY. OECD SHOULD ASSIST IN IDENTIFYING FOOD POLICY AND SPECIFIC ACTIONS TO INCREASE EFFICIENCY OF FOOD SYSTEM.

III. RELATIONS WITH DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

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PAGE 02 PARIS 02404 02 OF 02 252254Z

7. MINISTERS' DISCUSSIONS EMPHASIZED DIVERSITY OF SITUATIONS IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES. SOME ARE LARGE PURCHASERS OF FOOD PRODUCTS WHILE IN MANY OTHERS DEVELOPMENT IS LINKED TO FOREIGN MARKETS FOR AGR PRODUCTS. AMONG THE POOREST COUNTRIES, MANY HAVE PROBLEMS OF HUNGER AND MALNUTRITION; THEY CANNOT SOLVE FOOD DEFICIT BY IMPORTS AND THUS EXPANSION OF THEIR AGR PRODUCTION MUST BE PRIORITY OBJECTIVE. RANGE OF MEASURES NEEDED TO ASSIST DEVELOPING COUNTRIES; AGR AND TRADE POLICIES, DEVELOPMENT AID, FOOD AID, AND FOOD SECURITY. MINISTERS CONFIRMED THEIR INTENTION TO CONTINUE EFFORTS IN THESE AREAS AND ESPECIALLY SUPPORT POLICIES TO INCREASE AID TO AGR SUBSTANTIALLY AND TO REACH WFC MINIMUM FOOD AID TARGET. OECD SHOULD MAKE IN-DEPTH ANALYSIS OF RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN MEMBER COUNTRIES' POLICIES AND TRENDS IN FOOD AND AGR SITUATION OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES.
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